

My city of Memphis, Tennessee, lies on the New Madrid fault, the most likely place in our country to have a major earthquake. When that event occurs, I want to have adequate policemen and firemen there to help our citizens. We can have them with the Jobs Act, have them this year when we don't know whether it will occur or not.

First responders are so important to the future of America, and passing the Jobs Act will guarantee that we will have security when a natural disaster occurs. We need to keep policemen and firemen employed.

DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that October is Down Syndrome Awareness Month. There are over 400,000 Americans who are living with an extra 21st chromosome, and my life has been blessed by one of them—our son, Cole.

As cochair of the Congressional Down Syndrome Caucus, every day is a chance to raise awareness about this condition—advocating for Cole and those other 400,000 Americans helping them to live the American Dream.

Today the bipartisan Down Syndrome Caucus is hosting a special briefing on Capitol Hill. We're bringing in over half a dozen experts on how we can work together to improve medical research, break down barriers and expand opportunities for those who have Down syndrome and many others who could be positively impacted.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the countless individuals in the disabilities community who have reached out to me and my family. I'm forever grateful for your work to make America a better place for my family and all Americans.

JOBS LEGISLATION

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, several weeks ago a railroad bridge over the Norwalk River in my district seized, causing delay and economic damage along the New York-Boston corridor, an artery for jobs, for economic prosperity, and for growth. It turns out that this is true around the country.

The American Society of Engineers grades our infrastructure a D. Make no mistake. We are going to fix this because the American people are not going to tolerate bridges that fall down and roads that crumble.

Meanwhile, thousands of engineers, electricians, and carpenters are out of work. Do you see the connection between out-of-work construction people

and a desperate need to rebuild our infrastructure? All that is missing is for the Republican majority to pass a jobs bill which funds the investment in our infrastructure that will lead to economic prosperity and to jobs now.

Every day that goes by in this Chamber without an infrastructure bill is a vote against safety and against jobs for people who desperately need them.

FILIPINO HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, Mabuhay.

We take time this month to recognize the contributions of Filipino Americans to the growth of our Nation. The first wave of migrants came from the Philippines to Hawaii when we were still a territory. Today, they number the largest ethnic group in the State, and they total almost 1.5 million in the State of California.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we have not kept our promises to the Filipino Americans. In World War II, we drafted about 200,000 of them with the promise—the promise—that they will have citizenship and benefits. And in 1946, the Congress rescinded that promise.

Today, with the stimulus package in 2009, we finally authorized the payment of some of the benefits to 30,000 who are remaining—30,000—but we have still failed to do what they wanted the most, which is the reunification of their families. Their stories and others' we will hear through this month.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in saying to them, "Salamat po," thank you for what you have done for this Nation.

JOB CREATION

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, our national unemployment rate is 9.1 percent. Yet for 42 weeks, the Republican leadership has ignored the need for a strong jobs agenda and has instead pushed an agenda to reduce workplace protections, and they have gone to weaken our economy. Unfortunately, the only jobs that will result from the Republican agenda are those vacated by victims of workplace injuries and possible deaths due to watered-down regulations. This is not responsible and only hampers our economic growth.

Democrats acknowledge that small businesses are responsible for nearly 70 percent of job creation. As a result, we have proposed the American Jobs Act and the Make it in America Act to support small businesses, create jobs, and strengthen our economy.

The American Jobs Act proposal would create nearly 300,000 education jobs, keep thousands of police and firemen on the job, cut the payroll tax in

half, and put more money in the pockets of Americans immediately without adding a dime to the deficit.

The Make It In America proposal would close tax loopholes that encourage outsourcing of U.S. jobs overseas and establish incentives for creating American clean energy jobs.

I ask my colleagues to abandon their misguided agenda and support those measures that will strengthen our country for all.

CURRENCY MANIPULATION

(Mr. RYAN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, last year we passed a bill in this House with 350 votes—99 Republicans—to address the issue of currency manipulation around the world, primarily China. Unfair trade practices in China have cost America 2.8 million jobs in the last 10 years—1.9 million of those, manufacturing.

If we have the strength in this body, in the House of Representatives, to take on the Chinese, we can have a major jobs package right here in the United States and put small and medium-sized manufacturers on a level playing field, put average workers back to work and reclaim the mantle of manufacturing in the United States. But this House has denied us the opportunity to take on the Chinese. The Senate passed it with over 60 votes just a week or 2 ago. Last year, we passed it in this House, 350 votes—99 Republicans.

We cannot be appeasers to the Chinese. We need to take them on, drive that investment back into the United States, and reclaim the mantle of manufacturing around the world.

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RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Natural Resources:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 4, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

MR. SPEAKER: Today, I hereby resign my position with the House Committee on Natural Resources.

It has been an honor to serve as a Member of the Committee on Natural Resources, and I have been proud to work with my colleagues to find solutions to our nation's energy crisis. I look forward to continuing to represent the people of the 3d Congressional District of Tennessee.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served on the House Committee on Natural Resources, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future.

Sincerely,

CHUCK FLEISCHMANN,
Member of Congress.